

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 72459-74635

Title: ARMOR IN MOUT/LIC/HUMANITARIAN EFFORT

Operation/Exercise Name: RESTORE HOPE

Observed: 23 Jul 1993

Originator: 1ST BN 7THMAR

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5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Armor has a positive effect in breaking resistance to peace keeping/making missions.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The use of tanks and LAVs leading mechanized/motorized patrols in the urban terrain of Mogadishu was invaluable. thermal sight provided information on hostile activities, and the inability of Somalies to detect the M1 led them to quickly cease attempts at engaging our armor assets. The presence of armor had a psychological impact on hostiles that made them avoid contact and comply with our wishes. During MOUT operations armor was able to act as cover in certain danger areas. They also were quick to "creep along" with the Grunts and provide immediate fire support.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

There is a continued need for integration of armor into MOUT techniques/tactics.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Incorporate the use of tanks, LAVs, AAVs, and even hard back HMWWVs in future packages on MOUT tactics (offensive, defensive, patrolling). These assets should be used to work together in an urban environment.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

The role of tanks with units going to MOUT environments has been underestimated. It is also important to appreciate the psychological effect of all types of armor or hardened vehicles is a stabilization operation or any military operation in a MOUT environment.

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